



WHAT GIFTS WILL YOU SHARE

CARLSBAD COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS



January 2005

Tsunami Jolts Carlsbad Volunteers Into Action

The idyllic sailing vacation that Julie Sobolewski, her son Casey, and friend John Hinkey planned became a rescue operation as they were literally caught up in the tsunami that was ultimately responsible for taking over 220,000 lives. Julie and her son acted instantly to become disaster relief volunteers. "One minute my son and I were admiring the coral reef off the coast of Thailand, and the next minute people were in the water screaming for help. There wasn't even time to make a decision, we just started pulling them into our boat," she remembers.

Julie says they have all been changed for life by the experience. "It makes you realize that the purpose of life is not to spend money and fight for success. Those seem like details compared to spending time with friends and family."

One of the changes that resulted from their experience is the volunteer effort initiated by Casey. He is spearheading a fundraising campaign to replace some of the wooden boats called 'longtails' he saw smashed by the wave. The Thai people use these ubiquitous boats for many livelihoods from taxis to fishing. Clearly, volunteering has become a vital part of Casey's life.



Environmental Volunteerism

Sometimes the environment takes a beating from Mother Nature. It could be the tragic destruction left by the tsunami or the less dramatic, but still serious damage caused by continuous rainfall. Sometimes the environment takes a beating from the carelessness of man as we litter our canyons and poison our waterways. If you have a desire to help the environment, the City of Carlsbad has ways to get involved.

Environmental Volunteerism – The Earth

The homes and office buildings going up in Carlsbad are easy to see. Less obvious, but right in step with the housing, is the development of a trail system that is a model for other communities.

As early as 1990, visioning and planning a comprehensive trails system began. The Citywide Trails Plan was approved in 2001, and implementation of the various components began. Today there are 17.7 miles of trails within Carlsbad, with plans for an additional 44 miles to be built. The most recent addition to the trails system came in 2002 with the Rancho Carrillo residential development. Volunteers are essential to the process of providing recreational trails. To keep this ambitious effort going, more volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks. Every task, from actually building trails to participating in the annual Earth Day Cleanup, requires volunteer assistance. Trail Master Tim Campbell said that he signed up because it's a great way to get involved. "Not only can you enjoy your efforts, but everyone in the City can enjoy the results."

Some of the volunteer opportunities include:

- Trail Construction – add some muscle to occasional trail building.
- Trail Maintenance – take on responsibility for a trail from cleanup to alerting staff about serious problems along the trail.
- Trail Master – supervision other trail volunteers for half of the City
- Trail Markers/Signage Installation – great corporate and Eagle Scout projects
- 2005 Annual Earth Day Cleanup – join others as we reverse man's impact on the land.

Environmental Volunteerism – The Water

The California Coastal Cleanup Day is the premiere state volunteer event focused on the environment and just one of the major outreach events locally conducted by the City's Storm Water Protection Program. This program, coordinated by the Public Works Department, addresses issues and concerns related to storm water protection and pollution prevention.

Volunteers are needed throughout the year to educate the public and enlist their aid in protecting our creeks, lagoons, ocean and other natural water bodies from pollution. Volunteers are trained to staff booths at Earth Day activities and at other local public events.

Because clean water is a federal, state, regional and city concern, Carlsbad joins surrounding cities to achieve common goals, especially in relation to shared water bodies such as lagoons. One lagoon lies entirely within Carlsbad borders – the Agua Hedionda Lagoon. Native Americans camped on its shores for centuries until Spanish conquistadors and Franciscan priests arrived, starting in 1769. It was during that time period that the lagoon was christened Agua Hedionda, which means Stinking Water. Clearly, concerns with the environment are not new to those living in the area.

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"You get from the world what you give to the world."

Oprah Winfrey

Special Opportunities for You

Resolving to Put First Things First – You

This is the time of year when we resolve to take care of the important things first. The entire City of Carlsbad staff knows how important you are and would like to thank you for all you do to expand and enhance the services offered to those who live, work and play in Carlsbad. Last year you and over 650 other volunteers gave a total of 49,958 hours of service. This amazing gift of so much of your time is priceless. However, the Independent Sector does designate a value for volunteer hours, and your services together are valued at \$932,706.52! Truly, we cannot express our gratitude for the difference you make.

Fingerprinting Technician

Use the high-tech Live Scan system to help citizens who need their fingerprints taken. Zap the computerized prints to the Department of Justice. To qualify, you must be fingerprinted and pass a background check yourself. Contact Sue at 760-434-2929 or sirey@ci.carlsbad.ca.us.

CityStuff

Teach lessons about local government to third-graders in Carlsbad schools. Volunteers receive a three-hour training that prepares them to give seven hands-on presentations based on superb materials developed by Junior Achievement and the City of Carlsbad. The training takes place on March 9, and the flexible class schedule begins at the end of March. The final lesson is a mock City Council meeting held in Council chambers. Contact Marilyn at 760-439-3716 or email wrote4fn@cox.net.

Senior Volunteer Police Patrol

The City of Carlsbad will offer a training academy beginning April 8 for those interested in becoming members of the Senior Volunteer Police Patrol. The academy will run for three weeks and will train participants in procedures to help reduce crime and increase law enforcement services to the community. Participants must be 55 years of age or older. Contact Sue at 760-434-2929 or sirey@ci.carlsbad.ca.us.

Family Open Studio

Volunteer to help out at this art-making workshop for all ages. An art project related to the Victor Raphael exhibition will be offered to families at Cannon Art Gallery. Volunteer on Saturday, February 26, between the hours of 10:00 and 3:00 at 1775 Dove Lane. Contact Tonya at 760-434-2906 or trodz@ci.carlsbad.ca.us.

Carlsbad News

New Zip Code Coming to a Street Near You

The U.S. Post Office has plans to add two more zip codes within the city limits of Carlsbad by July 1 of this year. The two new zip codes are expected to be 92010 and 92011.

State of the Arts Discussion

Join a free-flowing discussion about the arts in Carlsbad – what we think and what we need. Attend one of the five evening meetings sponsored by the Arts Office to be held throughout the city in January. Call 760-434-2902 for more information.

911 Direct

Carlsbad is the first city in San Diego County to receive 911 from cell phones directly into our Police Communications Center. Previously, 911 calls placed from cell phones were routed through the CHP dispatch center before being transferred to the appropriate agency. The direct service is expected to reduce waiting and response times.